



Foggy Bottom News

November 2002

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 45, No. 2

New Buildings to Rise on M Street



1111 25th Street, to rise over medical building

Two new building projects are being planned for M Street, both by The JBG Companies. The first, about to be constructed, is a rental apartment house at 1111 25th Street, to be built above and to the southeast of the Columbia Hospital Office Building. According to Managing Director Stewart Bartley, the permits are in hand

and the bidding process is in progress. The company hopes to begin by the end of the year, and have the building completed in 15 months.

It will contain two ground-floor residential units on 25th Street, as well as the building's entrance, both at the site of a current planted berm. Amenities will include an exercise room and small

See M St., to page 8

Local Apartment Sells for \$1 Million

A three-bedroom apartment in Watergate West sold recently for \$1 million, while two others in the complex brought in \$785,000 and \$816,500 respectively.

Following is a list of real estate sales in the Foggy Bottom/West End area during September and early October. The information is supplied by Caroline Coates/Coates Realty (333-0017), which is located in our neighborhood.

Address	Bldg.	Bed/Bath	Sold Price	Settled Date
2700 Va. #711	Watergate West	2B/2.5BA	\$785,000	Sept. 3
1140 23rd #1005	Gibson	2B/2BA	\$480,000	Sept. 6
1117 New Hamp. #5		2B/2BA	\$390,000	Sept. 13
2421 I St.		2B/1BA	\$499,000	Sept. 13
2515 K St. #611	Bader	1B/1BA	\$175,000	Sept. 16
1124 25th #211	Westminster	2B/2BA	\$377,000	Sept. 16
2700 Va. #105	Watergate West	4B/4.5BA	\$816,000	Sept. 19
2301 N #304	Emerson House	2B/1BA	\$385,000	Sept. 23
700 N. Hamp. #714	Watergate South	1B/1BA	\$295,000	Sept. 27
2555 Penn. #1004	Westbridge	1B/1.5BA	\$418,200	Sept. 26
700 N. Hamp. #719	Watergate South	1B/2BA	\$425,000	Sept. 27
824 25th St.		2B/1.5BA	\$548,000	Oct. 3
730 24th St. #316	Potomac Pl. Terr.	1B/1BA	\$139,000	Oct. 3
2700 Va. #301	Watergate West	3B/4.5BA	\$1,000,000	Oct. 9

Update

Columbia Hospital Discussions Continue

Following the purchase by Trammell Crow Co. of the Columbia Hospital property, the FBA and the ANC have met with the developer to explore various possibilities for the project. All parties believe the talks have been highly productive, and are continuing.

Meanwhile, a application for historic designation has been filed by Foggy Bottom historic preservation advocates for protection of the original hospital building. The petition is likely to come before the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board by the end of the year.

MPD Zero Tolerance Works

In the past several weeks, the promise by the MPD Second District to crack down on disturbances caused by loud parties has paid off. Several residents of West End Place on 22nd Street called the police about a building across the street occupied by members of several GWU fraternities. Chris Labas, manager of the building, reports that one young man walked across the street to inform him that \$400.00 in fines had been levied against those residents, motivating them to halt the complained-about behavior.

Lt. David Hutchinson advised us in September that, subject to Second District policy, officers will respond

See Update, to page 7

KenCen Plan #4 Chosen

A decision has been made by the study team examining multiple traffic alternatives for the Kennedy Center. It has chosen Alternative #4, the one least objectionable to FB residents.

Douglas Laird of the Federal Highway Administration told 26th Street's Ed Gable: "Based on the set of screening criteria developed previously and on comments from the project's steering committee, government agencies, and the public, the study team has reviewed the eleven alternatives presented . . . and

. . . has selected Alternative 4 for further development and evaluation. Alternatives 5 through 10, which have been found to raise serious technical difficulties and/or **strong community opposition, will not be carried forward.**" (emphasis added).

The abandoned alternatives would have altered our neighborhood significantly by making streets such as 26th, I and others heavily traveled thoroughways. Many in our area were not only alarmed by those proposals, but incensed that tax money was wasted on making studies of routes so damaging to both the Foggy Bottom residential area and to the overall urban environment.

Vote on November 5

On Tuesday, November 5, voters in the District of Columbia will choose a long list of office holders for the city. Up for election are the Congressional Delegate, the Mayor, Council Chair, two Council-at-Large seats, and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

The Foggy Bottom/West End voting places, open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., are:

- Precinct 2:** United Church, 20th & G Streets, N.W.
- Precinct 3:** St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W.
- Precinct 4:** West End Library, 24th & L Streets, N.W.

See Vote, to page 5

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speakers:

Mayoral Candidates

Carol Schwartz

and

Anthony Williams

(Not Confirmed)

Monday, October 28, 2002

The Melrose Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, November 25, 2002)

Becker Beat



Some Coincidence!

In last month's issue, your editor sounded off about what she thinks is an important issue—the increasing purchase of land in this city by organizations which are not obligated to pay property tax. (As many residents know, the number of these groups and the rise in their buying proclivities are close to rampant.)

Imagine, then, my interest in an article in the October 8 Washington Post reporting that Fairfax County supervisors share my concern as they work on their next budget. According to the article, the county forfeits “\$20,000 to \$50,000 in revenue from newly exempt organizations each year.” An example given was the National Wildlife Federation which received a \$300,000 exemption last year. We would all agree that the Federation is a worthwhile organization, and also agree that to the county that is more than chump change.

Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, who is chair of the Committee on Finance and Revenue, is considering an article for the News on the subject, focusing on payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT), one method used by municipalities to recover revenue lost to tax-exempt organizations. We'll look forward to the article and to possible implementation of such a program or other method to “stem the tide.”

Riverside Owner Denies Guilt

Brian Fisher, owner of Riverside Liquors on Virginia Avenue, has complained to the News about being mentioned in an article in last month's issue. The story, taken from the GW Hatchet, concerned arrests during Labor Day weekend for underage liquor purchases at several local stores. Fisher insisted that the arrests were made “outside” his store, after the liquor was bought legally and then passed on to minors.

He is proud of his reputation, he says, for many years of strict observance of the underage drinking laws, and his assertions are verified by MPD Lt. Patrick Burke. Burke agreed that Riverside is “a model store,” equipped with ID scanners, and is one of the toughest on underage sales.



Thomas Kohout

Vincent Cremona

Vincent Cremona, long-time resident of Columbia Plaza, died in October in San Antonio, Texas, where he was hospitalized near his daughter. He died following a fall which broke his hip, an extended stay in GWU Hospital, and hospitalization in Texas.

Cremona was born on the island of Malta, educated in New York and London, and emigrated to Canada, and later to the U.S. His work experiences were for General Motors, IGA, several airlines, Litton Industries, and finally for the Federal Reserve System, retiring in 1998.

As a resident of Columbia Plaza, he was supportive of the Columbia Plaza Tenants Association. He was a member of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem—Knights of Malta.

He is survived by a daughter, Monica, and three grandchildren. A memorial Mass in Washington is planned for November 2. For details call 293-1439.

November 2002

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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To place ads, call Rita Champagne at 293-1439. Cost for classified ads 60 cents per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column wide ad—the smallest available, is \$38.50.

December issue: to be distributed November 22-23

Copy deadline: November 7; camera-ready: November 14

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Letters

A Note of Appreciation

I want to congratulate you on the most recent issue of the Foggy Bottom News. It was full of interesting articles, well-written and the best issue I've read.

Hannah Dowell
Virginia Avenue

Ed. Note: Thank you so much; it really means a lot! And also for the check for FBA dues you sent along.

“Dream On”

If you believe you have halted Dr. Trachtenberg's “Edifice” complex, dream on. (Also sent a check for FBA dues.)

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Critic's Corner

This month the News initiates a column of critical reviews of various performing and visual arts by a free-lance critic, Bob Anthony. His reviews will appear regularly, along with possible contributions occasionally by FB residents. He is providing them to us and also has a webpage for his reviews and welcomes readers to view it—<http://hometown.aol.com/review4u>.

Octagon House Shows Waddell Paintings

It's a perfect show for historians and lovers of the nation's capital/capitol. The paintings by Peter Waddell at the Octagon House beautifully show us "Inside the Temple of Liberty: 19th Century Interiors of the U.S. Capitol." Particularly interesting is the scene of architect Latrobe showing Betsy Bonaparte (yes, his brother married an American beauty) through the hallowed halls. And it is cheerful to see young pages chasing bats from the open-windowed Marble Room. Definitely a must-see small show with many thanks to the American Architectural

Foundation located next door. (It's at New York Avenue and 18th Street. But hurry, it closes November 3.)

At the Renwick

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum has a blockbuster on its hands that should enjoy large attendance with its "George Catlin and His Indian Gallery" that is overwhelming by its largesse. And there is an additional panorama of sight and sounds to give the visitor a perfect feeling for the plains of America including a buffalo-bison stampede. The curators and staff are to be highly complimented for one of the best and most complete shows now in Washington. The most fascinating thing about the show is the history of the American Indians that we were never taught about in our history classes; it should put us all to shame for our broken treaties and displacement of our fellow Americans. Every grade school and high school in the area should book a trip to this penetrating show. And definitely put the Renwick first on the list of museum shows to see for your visiting friends and family. (To January 19, at 17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue.)

Cong. Bliley at St. Stephen's

By F. James Koch

Former Congressman Thomas J. Bliley, Jr. spoke at the 12:10 Mass at St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church on Tuesday, October 22, as a lay witness supporting the church's new stewardship initiative.

The initiative, which kicked off the weekend of October 5-6, is designed as a longterm effort to build the church's activities, get parish-

ioners more involved in the various ministries, and expand outreach to non-practicing Catholics and to the community at large.

Congressman Bliley, who maintains an apartment in Foggy Bottom, joined the Georgetown law firm of Collier Shannon Scott after 20 years in Congress representing Richmond, Virginia.

The Rev. Robert Cary Hill, pastor of St. Stephen's, emphasizes that parishioners giving back "Time, Talent and Treasure," the theme of the initiative, is a most effective way to show gratitude for the good things parishioners enjoy. "Stewardship is a way of life, helping us to focus attention on how our lives are led. Eventually we want this to touch every parishioner and visitor to St. Stephen's and extend throughout Foggy Bottom," added Father Hill.

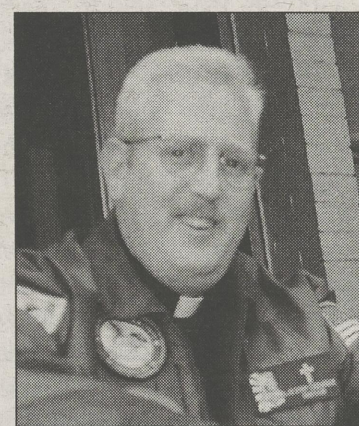
Mary Kay Williams and James Zwolenik are co-chairs of the initiative. Other parishioners involved are Susan Wallace, Robert Klein, Sharon Ramsey, Timothy Anderson, and Michael Checkan.

Fr. Cunningham Comes to Newman Center

Father Gerard Cunningham is the new chaplain at the Newman Center at 2210 F Street, N.W., and also Associate Pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Church.

The new chaplain was raised in the Boston area, which is no secret if you talk with him, graduating from St. John's Seminary College. After working as a correctional officer with violent adolescents, he joined the U.S. Navy, became a religious program specialist, and was assigned to a ship permanently deployed in the Arabian Sea.

After completion of his tour, he entered Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in 1989, became a Navy Ensign in 1990, and was ordained in



1993. After serving at St. Peter's Church in Olney until July 1996, he became a Navy Chaplain, served in Okinawa, Norfolk, and on an aircraft carrier from July 1999 until July 2001. He was then assigned to St. Elizabeth's in Rockville until he came to Foggy Bottom in October.

Metro Connection A Year Old

Georgetown Park and the Department of Motor Vehicles are convenient to FB residents if they choose to use the Georgetown Metro Connection buses, a service which just celebrated its first anniversary. The buses operate all day and into the night (till midnight Sun-Thu and 2:00 a.m. Fri-Sat) from the FB Metro station to upper Georgetown (above the Safeway), and the fare is 50 cents, or 25 cents with a Metro transfer. An additional route is from the Dupont Circle station to the Rosslyn station. According to the Georgetown Current, officials estimate that one million riders used the buses in the first year.

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No Taxes on Non-D.C. Municipal Bonds!

By Jack Evans
Councilmember, Ward 2

On October 1, the D.C. Council put together a package of spending cuts and fee increases to balance the fiscal year 2003 budget. Overall, I am pleased that the Council pulled together in a crisis and acted responsibly. I voted for the budget but have several reservations. One issue, the tax on out-of-state municipal bonds, should be of particular interest to Foggy Bottom residents and I need your help to convince the rest of the Council that the tax should be eliminated.

Not even during the 1992-1995 budget nightmare did we resort to this scheme. (The late Ward 2 Councilmember, Council Chair and Finance Chair John Wilson, must be rolling in his grave.)

Tax Will Hurt D.C. Investors

The decision to tax municipal bonds is especially hurtful for the following reasons. District investors need to have a wide range of investment options, as residents of other states have. Retirees are often attracted to these bonds because they provide a lower-risk, income-generating investment that is vital in their senior years, when they are often allowed to claim fewer tax deductions.

With the stock market currently on a major downswing, its worse since 1987, these bonds are an attractive investment alternative. For people who have already lost significant retirement savings over the past few months and years in the stock market, and who have moved their investments into tax-free bonds, the Council's decision is especially harmful.

The reality is that the District is a very small jurisdiction—and has very few tax-free bonds to offer to ordinary investors. Institutional investors buy most District bonds; individual investors are largely closed out of that market.

St. Mary's Bazaar Set for November 2

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, at 728 23rd Street, will hold its Annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 2, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The bazaar will feature original fall and Christmas items, white elephant sales, a bake sale, and a delicious lunch, all priced reasonably. Outside vendors are welcome.

Please come! Rain or Shine! For further information call the church at 333-3985.

Reducing the attractiveness of and access to these bonds will lessen portfolio options and virtually eliminate investment in these bonds by District retirees and others.

Decision Changes Rules

The proposal amounts to changing the rules arbitrarily in the middle of the game, as many District residents purposefully bought tax-free bonds for their various benefits. It is possible many people will sell them and possibly take a loss.

My great fear is that when we resume budget talks next March for the 2004 budget, all kinds of crazy ideas will be introduced. I urge you to write other Councilmembers and the Mayor and demand they overturn the decision to tax out-of-state municipal bonds.

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HELP, HELP! The Foggy Bottom Association and the FBNews are continually in need of residents who can spare a few hours or occasional days to help with various projects. All FBA committees welcome volunteers (Community Improvement, Membership, Public Relations, and the editor's favorite, the Editorial Committee). Focus this month will be on the latter, with more on the others later.

The Committee Chair, Joe Chaplick, and the News editor welcome:

- Articles about events in Foggy Bottom, and elsewhere if they affect FB;
- Articles and interviews of residents and the operators of local businesses, as well as photos of local interest;
- Letters to the Editor on any pertinent subject;
- Information in writing or by phone on possible news or feature items;
- Persons interested in editing and laying out the paper often or occasionally. Every endeavor, especially a newspaper, needs fresh ideas and outlook, and the editor's been around a long time!
- A person to prepare and send out advertising invoices, bank the checks, and prepare commission statements. Invoices are prepared from a set of clear instructions from the ad manager which makes sending bills to the 25+ advertisers uncomplicated—but oh, so necessary!

The News is distributed by a wonderfully loyal group of residents who see that its 5500 copies get around the neighborhood. One group counts and ties on the Thursday afternoon before FBA meetings; it takes about two hours. Needed are helpers and a "director" to coordinate them each month.

If you value and appreciate the News, give it some of your time and talent. Call 337-5528. That is also the fax number should you want to submit some news.

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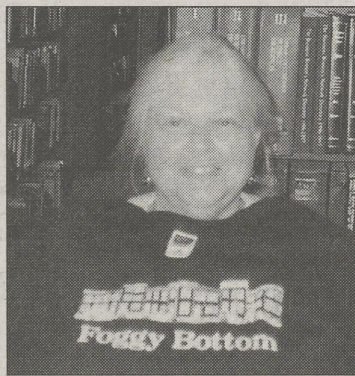
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Barbara Kubinski to be Transferred

As reported last month, the West End Library is now closed for renovation, and is scheduled to reopen on February 1, 2003. During this period the branch will be painted, receive new carpeting and furniture, and the rest rooms will be made handicapped-accessible. Staff members will be assigned to other branches to help with staffing shortages and workload; whether they will be returned here, as they hope, is not certain.

Head Librarian Barbara Kubinski, however, is due to be transferred to the Takoma Branch sometime in the near future. The transfer date is not certain, but is anticipated sometime before West End reopens. She has been at this branch for over 10 years, and has become a friend and



resource to the residents of Foggy Bottom and West End.

The library branches closest to West End are Georgetown at Wisconsin & R; Watha T. Daniel at 8th & New York Avenue; and Martin Luther King at 9th & G Streets (near Metro Center on Blue and Orange Lines, and Gallery Place on the Red Line).

However, the Library will be open for elections on November 5.

Park Cleanup Set for November 2



Bob and Norrene Vogt at work on the 26th Street Park.

The latest in what has become an at-least annual cleanup of the 26th Street Park area is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The park "superintendent," Bob Vogt, called for volunteers to turn out, bring gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels and garden implements.

It is an opportunity to

beautify one of our neighborhood's beauty spots, meet neighbors, get good exercise, and "enjoy fresh air and refreshments."

Call 337-3731 to sign up, so plans can be made for chore assignments and for refreshments. The rain date will be Monday, November 4, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Breaks Ground

In early October St. Paul's Episcopal Church held special events in celebration of its ground-breaking for a new main entrance and cloister, and "the long-awaited elevator." The project is the first new construction project in 40 years.

Included are plans for increased handicapped-accessibility, via an elevator to serve all three floors of the Pillsbury building, and additional wheelchair ramps. Both the east and west porches will be "completed" as set out in the church's original plans. There will also be changes to the K Street townhouses housing the church's offices, including incorporation of the newly-purchased 2422 K Street.

WGExxon Supports SWW



Watergate Exxon's Leon and Eddie Miranian present check to SWW's Dana Bedden.

Through the good efforts of Leon Miranian of Watergate Exxon, a \$500 check has been presented to the principal of FB's local senior high school for use in its library. The local station took advantage of ExxonMobil's Educational Alliance Program and

submitted an application from the school for funds to improve the media center. The check was presented to School Without Walls's principal, Dana Bedden, in front of the station located at Virginia Avenue and Rock Creek Parkway.

Vote, from page 1

Even though the Library is closing temporarily for renovations, it will be open for the election, according to Tony Bass of the Board of Elections and Richard Jackson of the D.C. Public Library.

Eleanor Holmes Norton and Patricia Kidd are running for Congressional Delegate, and vieing for the Mayor's job are Councilmember Carol Schwartz and incumbent Anthony Williams, as well as Statehood Green's Steve Donkin, Independent Tricia Kinch, and Socialist Workers' Sam Manuel. Linda Cropp, current Council Chair, is being opposed by Statehood Green's Debbie Hanrahan.

Two Council-at-Large seats are open, one of which must be other than a Democrat. Incumbent Democrat Phil Mendelson and Republican David A. Catania are being

opposed by five Independents and one from the Statehood Green Party. The latter candidate is Michele A. Tingling-Clemmons, and the Independents, as listed by the Board of Elections, are Chris Ray, Ahmad Braxton-Jones, Kweku Toure, Antonio D. Dominguez, and Eugene Kinlow.

Three New ANC Candidates Run

There are three persons running for ANC-2A who will be new to office, and another three are longstanding Commissioners. New names on the ballot are David M. Lehrman (Single Member District 2A01), James W. Lewis (SMD 2A04), and Joshua Singer (SMD 2A06). Running for re-election are Dorothy Miller (SMD 2A05),

Richard Price (SMD 2A02), and Maria Tyler (SMD 2A03).

David Lehrman has lived in the Statesman on F Street, N.W. for about 10 years. An attorney, he works for the U.S. Department of Transportation. He is running for the seat now held by ANC Chair Elizabeth Elliott. Joshua Singer is from Boca Raton, Florida, and a GWU senior majoring in criminal justice and psychology. He also lives on F Street, and initiated the idea of the Farmers' Market on the campus in October. James Lewis has lived in the Watergate complex for about 15 years and currently is with Merrill Lynch. He hails from eastern North Carolina, and formerly worked for a Congressman from his home state.

There are also two referendums on the ballot.

Caroline C. Coates

What's for Sale in Foggy Bottom

Partial List for September and October

834 New Hampshire 2B/1BA....\$439,000

806 New Hampshire 2B/2.5BA....\$470,000

953-25th St. 2B/1.5BA....\$599,000

Potomac Plaza 3 8th Fl. 2B/2BA....\$379,000

Watergate E. 7 Fl. 2B/2.5BA \$725,000 6 Fl. 2B/2BA \$399,000

Potomac Overlook 8th Fl. 2B/2BA....\$385,000

3 Washington Circle 7th Floor 2B/2BA....\$485,000

Snows Court 1B/1BA.....\$230,000

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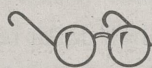
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Neighborhood Datebook

Friday, October 25: Opening reception for "Art for Fun," an exhibit of acrylics by Thomas Easley. Watergate Gallery, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Information: 338-4488. 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Monday, October 28: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Mayoral candidate and Councilmember Carol Schwartz. Anthony Williams has also been invited but has not responded. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m. **All residents welcome.**

Wednesday, October 30-Sunday, November 3: "Lear and Her Children," an adaptation of King Lear, presented by the GWU Department of Theatre & Dance. Marvin Center Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. Info: 994-6178. \$10; students & seniors, \$8. 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 2: St. Mary's Episcopal Church's Annual Fall Bazaar, 728 23rd Street, N.W. Info: 333-3985. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*

Saturday, November 2: 26th Street Park and Children's Playground Clean-up Day. Call 337-3731 to sign up (count needed for assignments and for refreshments). 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.*

Tuesday, November 5: Election Day in D.C., with contests for Mayor, Council Chair, Council-at Large, Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and Congressional Delegate. (See article elsewhere in this issue for candidates and voting places.) 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5: Community meeting for representatives from historic districts, to see latest prototype designs for signs to mark historic districts, hosted by the D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition. Sumner School, 1202 17th Street, N.W. (at M Street). Info: 661-7581. 6:40 p.m.

Thursday, November 14: "Die Walkure on the Mind of Mann: The Influence and the Insight," an illustrated slide lecture by opera lecturer Saul Lilenstein, sponsored by the Wag-

ner Society of Washington, D.C. Funger Hall, 2201 G Street, N.W. Info: 301-907-2600. 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 15: Opening of exhibition "Laying the Foundation for Liberty: the Statue of Liberty's Pedestal." Highlighted will be the work of architect Richard Morris Hunt, who was selected to design the pedestal for Auguste Bartholdi's sculpture and Gustave Eiffel's engineering for the Statue of Liberty. The Octagon, 1799 New York Avenue, N.W. \$5; seniors and students \$3. Info: 638-3221, or 328-3105 (recorded info). Tues.-Sun., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 16: "Beyond the West Wing: Presidential Parlors and Hideaway Offices," a 90-minute tour about how the Octagon and nine other neighboring buildings were used by different presidents before and after the West Wing was built 100 years ago. Beginning with a walking tour through the White House's neighborhood, it will conclude at the Octagon Museum's upstairs parlor, temporarily used by President Madison. The Octagon, 1799 New York Avenue, N.W. \$5; members free. Reservations required; 395-3680. 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 20: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2-A meeting. Location to be announced. Info: 736-1775. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday-Saturday, November 20-23: "Danceworks," a concert featuring choreography by guest artists and faculty, presented by GWU Department of Theatre & Dance. Marvin Center Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. Info: 994-6178. \$10; students and seniors \$8. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21: Lecture by John Robbins of the National Park Service on Richard Morris Hunt's participation on the team which created the Statue of Liberty. AIA Boardroom, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. \$12; Octagon members \$10. Reservations required; 626-7387. 6:45 p.m.

*See article elsewhere in this issue.

It's Time to Help the Schools

It's time again to take advantage of the two major supermarket chains' program to contribute to local schools, by designating the "credit" from your purchases go to a school of your choice.

Both Safeway and Giant customers may indicate a choice in person at the store's office, or by going online. Use Safeway.com, then the escrip.com link and follow its guides; or go to www.giant-food.com/schools.

Safeway this year will provide money rather than equipment as in the past. Its program started in October, will run until the end of May, and will total up their contributions every 60 days and remit to the schools, rather than wait until the end of the school year.

The three schools in our area are Stevens Elementary near 21st & L; Francis Junior High at 24th & M Streets, and School Without Walls Senior High on G Street between 21st and 22nd Streets.

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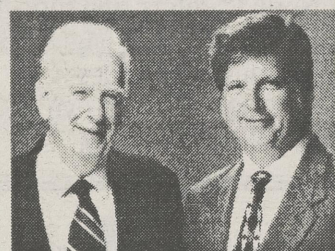
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The Washington Post, October 2002



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A Place of Secret Treasures

By Joan G. Sugarman

I found a place of secret treasures in the Watergate Mall! It has been there almost as long as I have lived in the area—since spring of 1977. Need personal attention, a quick gift, a card, two thin waste baskets and lettering to label them "Paper Only" and "Plastic & Metal"?

In all of these years I have never not found what I needed in this little shop of easy access: Branch Office Supply, right next to the Chinese carryout and the twice-the-size liquor store, Watergate Wine & Beverage, which also delivers!

A delightful woman named only Mulu does unusually kind things: she is quite small, and somehow managed to use a pole to corral things from the double-height ceiling area, where a tote bag swings enticingly in the air before she grabs it. Suddenly I cannot do without that brocaded tote bag, with leather straps and a metal clasp inside to hold my keys. It all fits neatly on my back, and I suddenly stop worrying about the price and must have it!

This little shop is a maze of treasures; they even put one of my books in the window to entice mall walkers! A series of copper pieces, lined with glass, for salads or fruits, a part of a series, is "a thing of beauty." It now sits in the middle of my round dining room table, and compels hands to reach over and touch it!

The hand-painted and unusual-shaped bowls, saucers and teapots change frequently, so one must stop by to look. The vast assortment of cards for every occasion, often minus words, are the usual reason for visits to such small shops. But Branch has woven, muted colored jackets of all sizes, clocks from alarm to school room, and clothing for infants to adults. Teddy bears, newborn gifts, Watergate heavy sweatshirts, a proper "cradle-to-grave" series of offerings await the wandering "walk-ins."

Boxes Are Made for Grandkids

My most favorite thing is the exquisite and variable-sized boxes for treasures, just made for adolescent grandchildren, demanding to be touched and held by the very smoothness and beauty of the wood. Four metal boxes with lids, intricately carved to resemble



JC and Mulu and some of their "treasures"

wood, nest in each other awaiting secret contents only a fourteen-year old girl understands!

It's true the plates pull one back, endlessly! Gloriously colored Turkish hand-painted ones come in different sizes. Jewelry, unusual chocolates, billfolds and those necessary calendars which bring in the new year, along with Crane writing paper, may originally intrigue a passer-by. Never mind, you will be pulled back time and time again!

I think JC is the owner and she shops in New York for these items. While we may determinedly march in for calendars, it is also an art mecca place and quite delightful.

And Lots of Home Office Stuff, Too

Oh, I forgot the picture frames, and the paste-on gadgetry for computers and all of that "stuff" which labels, clips, clamps and punches, then holds our paper world, our telephones and our overwhelming office-handling routines of merely paying bills. Presented are a variety

of multi-colored, multi-sized, and matching envelopes and note papers. Best of all is an area where those endlessly-needed mailing envelopes of every conceivable size await the "top of the escalator" post office above the mall.

I know of no other place where any type of pen refill is automatically and graciously inserted. And are you addicted to your ancient (Smith Corona, among others) typewriter or require adding machine tapes for obsolete models of either one? Rest easy, wanderer! You may find such items here along with HP cartridges, for fax or computer.

This small store, two stories high, has all sizes of folders and colored labels. Only in Branch Office Supply have I paid \$4.50 for a single, unique card, and I'd do it again—even though they sell cards in the CVS nearby.

GO! Enjoy the assortment of treasures and small gifts and especially the "cover-up" white tape for errors, the excellent leather billfolds and the tassels on

the napkin holders. And where else can one find napkins for tea with matching small cups?

I DID! To find Branch, go down the escalator, immediately turn left, passing the liquor and take-out stores. They won't mind if you stop at the next shop, the bakery, for a cookie. JC will happily allow you to eat it inside her store. I once did, and she insisted I eat a Chinese meal from next door and join her for lunch. She told me she lives in Annapolis and drives in several days a week to her little store. I would too; she has created a most enticing and inviting resource for both the neighborhood, its residents and visitors.

Joan Sugarman is a Foggy Bottom resident, who has published two books for early elementary school children, both concerning the Jewish faith. In "Joel Finds Out," based on her grandchild, he learns about synagogues and church school. Another is entitled "Inside the Synagogue," also for children at the second grade level. She is currently working on a biography of Platt Rogers Spencer, the originator of Spencerian handwriting.

Update, from page 1

to calls to 311, warn the offenders, and return to monitor the situation. The second time would incur a fine, a third arrest. Residents are encouraged to make calls to 311, and if no action is taken (often due to more urgent emergencies), call again.

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M St. Buildings Rise, from page 1



Rendering of 24th Street side of 2400 M Street

"flexible" meeting rooms.

To be named Sovereign House, it will contain 140 units, mostly one- and two-bedroom units. The number of studio apartments was decreased at the request of community representatives, who want to encourage longterm residents, not students. Its rents have been tentatively set at from \$2100-\$3500 monthly.

A second building, at 2400 M Street, will contain 333 units, and came before the Board of Zoning Adjustment for variances, one of which concerns the required percentage of recreational space. The developer plans a

fitness area, a rooftop pool and running track. The company is still working on the possibility of a grocery store for its retail space. Bill Elam, who is overseeing both projects, hopes to have the building completed in 21 months.

JBG has seven residential buildings built or under construction at present, all of which either have or will have the word "Sovereign" as part of their names. He indicated that they have not yet decided on the second word for the 2400 M Street building, and Bill Elam (777-7152) is open to suggestions from the public. As they said, it's a chance to "name the building"!

From the President

By Ron Cocome

Since becoming president of the Foggy Bottom Association, I have had the pleasure of hearing from a lot of you and have made many new friends. Most with whom I have spoken have serious concerns and a few even some hopefulness to share.

By far the greatest concern regards housing and the quality of domestic life. The shortage of housing caused by the new-found demand for city housing and the longtime neglect by District government to keep a healthy housing stock is all too real. This problem in our community has been greatly exacerbated by our corporate university neighbor which does not provide sufficient housing for its students.

Our already fragile residential community is thereby ravaged. GWU saves money and attendant responsibility by fobbing its housing costs on to District taxpayers in general and to our community in particular. This purposeful policy reaps for the insatiable university cum real estate developer the bonus of destabilizing our residential

community and gobbling it up bit by bit.

We have all seen—all too passively seen—the evolution of this policy of appeasement. First fell the apartment buildings and condos inside the campus area. Next was the turn of the areas to the south and east. Then the apartment buildings and even hotels to the north and west fell to them.

At each step the District government did nothing. Bad behavior was rewarded. The District's tax base, especially its critical income tax base, was eroded. At each step too many of us believed we were safe from this aggressive behavior.

The calls I am receiving now are increasingly from co-op and condo owners in buildings so long thought inviolate to threats of "dormitorization." But, in this time of high rents, low interest and rising investment in real estate, parents are increasingly buying apartments for their student children.

Our permanent residents suffer, our city tax base suffers and, lest we forget them, the students suffer. University students, in particular undergraduate students, should be able to enjoy the college experience with their peers in an environment where their less

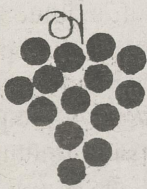
regular hours and lifestyle do not create grief and unpleasantness for them as well as us.

What can be done? We can each of us communicate our concerns to our elected representatives—not letting up until they act. We can urge friends and family across the District to do the same. For the great damage done to our tax base will be borne by all District residents. We can work together with our neighbors in the Foggy Bottom Association, which in turn must develop both the program and resources to act. However, there is no substitute for direct individual action.

Condo owners, and especially co-op owners, can act to protect themselves and their property. What is needed is the will.

So many of our buildings have an uninvolved membership and/or impotent boards—often not even at full complement. Too frequently, people serving on these boards, or as employees of these boards, have agendas of their own which can sadly include selfish desires to make quick real estate sales. In every case owners can act to make a difference but only if they choose to do so. Whenever possible the FBA will gladly help.

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